STAR WARS
REBELLION

"SANCTUARY: CODA"

Story

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"Sanctuary: CODA"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – CORPORATE SECTOR AUTHORITY – KISMET TRADE RUN

TRACK WITH the crippled, hull-breached Star Destroyer *Atonement* as it approaches the Kismet Trade Run, a string of industrialized asteroids in the Corporate Sector.

The asteroid string is actually a floating spaceport: offering glittering casinos, multi-level recreation centers, and various commercial sectors, all connected by flashing space buoys that mark out starship traffic lanes. Disc-shaped satellites drift through the Trade Run, projecting gigantic, translucent holographic advertisements for businesses of all types: droid manufacturers, starship repair facilities, animated corporate logos, exotic dance clubs, sports arenas, and specialized import markets. Smaller vessels and commuter transports veer away from the Star Destroyer as it cruises through the Trade Run.

The *Atonement* finally sets course for a larger asteroid, a small moonlet with a vast canyon running from its topmost pole all the way to its equator. Inside the canyon is an orbital shipyard, where capital-scale starships can dock. The shipyard is a maze of guiding lights and stabilizer pylons, girders and floating zero-G workmen platforms, magnetic pincer clamps and elongated airlock bridges. The Star Destroyer maneuvers into one of the lattice-like repair fields and cuts its sublight engines, multiple retractable magno-clamps extending down all around it to lock the *Atonement* into place. Massive repair droids float over and attach fuel tubes to the Star Destroyer's main rear thrust nozzles.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE

Admiral Mede, his Technician, and a BRIDGE OFFICER watch the fueling procedures outside. Captain Destri, Hulda, and Loom Carplin enter from the turbolift elevators.

DESTRI
Our sick bays are full, Admiral. Luckily, we still have enough supplies for the medical droids to work with. They have been administering the *Ty-Ruben* antidote to our people and the Wullerton refugees ever since we left.

MEDE
How long until everyone is cured of the infection?

LOOM CARPLIN
Too long for my liking, Mede. We should have gone directly to Dantooine. The Corporate Sector Authority--

MEDE
--is presently self-governed and well outside of the Empire's interests. And we simply don't have the fuel to reach Dantooine yet, Commander. What reserves we had we've given to the *Lambda*-- Shuttle and the *Olo Blba*. You may leave for the Rebel Base anytime you are ready. How long, Captain Destri?

DESTRI
Most of the refugees are fit to return to Draenell's Point. Endigo and Bre are already recovered, as is Senator Antilles.

MEDE
Carplin, SpecForce may have the *Lambda*. It's not large enough to house the refugees. Antilles will need the Corellian Corvette to return them to the Bissillirus system. Hulda?

HULDA
Auxiliary reactor, main cooling system, and the primary shield generators, they're all trashed. We have neither the manpower nor the money to fix it all. Especially after we refuel the *Atonement*. I am preparing a requisition form for General Madine so we--

MEDE
Hold off on that. The General and I have other matters to discuss. Don't worry about the repairs, Hulda. Shore leave is granted to any staff currently out of quarantine.

HULDA
Yessir. Thank you, sir.

Hulda exits.

LOOM CARPLIN
What about Taht Kojian? He is currently in detention. He knows too much about our operation--

MEDE
We have no present operation in progress, as I see it, Commander Carplin. Sanctuary is over.
(to Bridge Officer)
Release Kojian immediately. He is a captain, and shall receive the respect that that rank allows him. Offer what condolences we can about the *Adjudicator* and give him the appropriate funds he will need to afford passage back to the Minos Cluster.

BRIDGE OFFICER
Yessir.

Bridge Officer exits. Carplin steps forward.

MEDE
Commander Carplin, before you clear your throat for that lecture you have prepared, please note that your continued presence aboard my ship has already become too long for my liking.

Beat.

Carplin exits.

DESTRI
Are you all right, Admiral Mede?

MEDE
I am going to retire to my quarters for a while. You have the bridge, Captain. Stay in contact with Gav Trevel of the Corporate Sector Interests Committee. He is our only ally here. Then see to it that Senator Antilles has some of our hyperspace-capable fighters run escort for him until he nears the Bissillirus system. Also, send a message on a secured channel to Moff Par Lankin to expect the Senator to arrive in a known Alliance starship, so he won't fire upon it. Inform me when we are refueled and ready to--

DESTRI
I have the bridge, sir.

MEDE
Thank you, Destri.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS

Mede is seated at his desk, staring at a monitor with nothing on it. A TRILLING SOUNDS indicates someone is at the door. Mede looks over, tired. He sits up straight.

MEDE
Enter.

Bre, Endigo, and Bahk-lun-Sool enter.

ENDIGO
Admiral.

MEDE
It’s good to see you well again, Mr. Endigo, Officer Bre. I was afraid I had lost you both. I would have sent word to Lieutenant Selko’s family of his death but, evidently, they have moved since his defection.

The Admiral then looks over at Bahk-lun-Sool, expectantly.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
Hello. My people are leaving with the Senator Antilles. I have come to ask to stay on your ship. My name is Bahk-lun-Sool. I am a Borneck.

MEDE
I recognize the species. Why do you want to stay?

BRE
He saved us from the ISB down on--

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
(stepping forward)
The uprising in the Bissillirus system was not organized. I want to learn from the Rebel Alliance. Then I will return and teach them how to fight your Empire.

MEDE
(beat)
Co’ab du swepdehd?

Endigo, Bre, and the Borneck are taken aback. Mede waits.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
Dendu sprak Vellita.

MEDE
Of course I do, Mr. Sool. Were you born on Vellity?

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
No. My family fled your Empire when it came to our homeworld. We went to Bis, to Draenell's Point.

MEDE
I see. If Bre speaks well of you, then you are welcome aboard the *Atonement*. Have her and Mr. Endigo show you around after you return from shore leave.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
Thank you, sir.

All turn to exit, but Bahk-lun-Sool stops.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL (CONT'D)
My... family tells me Vellity was very small.

MEDE
Small, yes, remote, yet full of valuable resources.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
Forgive me, sir, my Basic is not so good that I can pick up on... what is the right word? Infer? You infer something?

MEDE
Yes I do. And you are picking up on it quite well.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
So that is how you came to learn such a rare language.

MEDE
Yes. I led the Imperial occupation of your homeworld. I learned Vellita while I oversaw Borneck prisoners construct their own labor camps on my behalf.

BRE
Um.

MEDE
Do you still want to serve aboard my ship, Mr. Sool?

Endigo leaves. Bahk-lun-Sool looks over at Bre, who tries to stare blankly at a wall.

Beat.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
(to Mede)
Yes, sir.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CORUSCANT – EMPEROR'S SQUARE – ON VIRAXO'S SHUTTLE

as it approaches the Emperor's Palace.

INT. EMPEROR'S PALACE

Viraxo strides through a wide, silent hallway towards the throne room. High-vaulted arches are concealed in darkness. No one is present except for the two Crimson Guards standing at attention in front of the throne room's colossal blast doors, forcepikes held to their sides. The blast doors slowly open as the Proconsul closes. Viraxo steps into the darkness within.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Viraxo stops at the bottom of a vast set of curved stairs. Already present in the room, in holographic form, is Darth Vader. Viraxo bows to the throne high above him. The Emperor gestures for the Proconsul to rise.

VIRAXO
Your highness.

THE EMPEROR
Admiral Mede and Endigo trouble me.

VIRAXO
What would you have me do?

VADER
We do not know where they are, my master.

THE EMPEROR
I do. Someone has given me their location. In return for a full pardon.

VIRAXO
Ah. I shall see to it that he gets the appropriate form of your majesty's amnesty.

THE EMPEROR
Mede and Endigo are in the Kismet Trade Run. They will be there for quite some time.

VADER
What about the Empire's relations with the Corporate Sector Authority?

THE EMPEROR
I have changed them.

VADER
And Moff Par Lankin? He will hesitate to move against them. I will need command of the fleet.

THE EMPEROR
I will change Par Lankin's mind as well, my friend. But you will not take the fleet. Surely you can be more economical.

VADER
Yes, master. The *Relentless* and a Dreadnaught escort should suffice. They shall not escape.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. KISMET SPACEDOCK – ON THE STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT*

locked in a needle cluster of magno-clamps in the middle of an asteroid canyon. A pair of small Mobquet WF191 Aerospace skimmers head for the *Atonement*'s hangar. As they begin to dock, another skimmer descends from the Star Destroyer's bay and shoots out of the spacedock and OUT OF VIEW.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – HANGAR BAY

Rebel Officers wait until one of the skimmer's cockpit bubble opens, hinged to fall back and disappear into a rear compartment. The Officers load up, laughing, filling the skimmer past its normal passenger capacity.

Endigo, Hulda, and Bahk-lun-Sool (carrying a forcepike) enter as that skimmer departs. Its cockpit bubble closes just as it leaves the atmosphere field of the hangar bay. They approach the second skimmer, whose DRIVER is waiting for them.

ENDIGO
We're still waiting for one more. All we have is Imperial credits.

DRIVER
Sure. I'm equipped to transfer them into CSA currency, at a ten-percent hike. I can do more than just your fare, too, if you plan to spend some time in the pleasure district.

ENDIGO
Whatever. Do that.

DRIVER
They'll charge you more there without a citizenship waiver, which I--

The Driver looks over Endigo's shoulder.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
Wow. That one more?

Bre enters the hangar. In a dress. Hair done and make up on. But carrying an ammo belt in her hand. Two-Tau follows obediently behind her.

TWO-TAU
Boyada seetchu meht?

BRE
Too. Big.

TWO-TAU
Fendu sobat....

BRE
Yeah, always too big. Look, I didn't build you.

TWO-TAU
(stopping)
Dis beddu..?

BRE
(getting to Endigo)
Hey you.

HULDA CAULP
You look great, Chori.

BRE
Destri let me borrow it.
(to Endigo)
Go back to the vest and goggles, right?

ENDIGO
Are you kidding? I--

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
(awkwardly interrupting)
No, please. Stay like this.

BRE
(to the Borneck)
What's with the, um, forcepike, Sool?

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
It is from Vellity. My mother's. Your Admiral upset me, I think is why. Is it ...inappropriate?

ENDIGO
(laughing)
It's all right, Sool. Let's go.

Hulda and Bahk-lun-Sool move to board. Endigo looks at Bre and the ammo belt she has in her hand: a blaster, thermal charges, two vibroblades.

ENDIGO
Why'd you bring that?

BRE
(she puts it on)
I kinda figured I'd be way overdressed.
(looking him over)
You big idiot.

They start to board. The cockpit bubble closes and the skimmer flies away.

EXT. SPACE – ABOVE DRAENELL'S POINT

PAN DOWN from the stars to the planet's moon, Unillian, where three vessels are moving away from the Imperial Starfleet remnants stationed there: the Star Destroyer *Relentless*, followed by a pair of Dreadnaughts.

CAPTAIN TAGGE (V.O.)
This is the ISD *Relentless*, setting course for Kismet. Prepare for my mark.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *RELENTLESS* – BRIDGE

Captain Tagge looks over to Darth Vader, who holds up a hand to wait. Vader is speaking to someone on the bridge's communications kiosk.

BEHIND VADER to see PIN PEI, a Saurton bounty hunter.

The Saurton is bulky, bent over, and resembles a bipedal crocodile. There are several other Saurton Hunters behind their leader. Pin Pei struggles with Basic.

PIN PEI
Kismet is small place. No problem is to find them soon.

VADER
Leave the Star Destroyer for us. We will be there shortly. You can kill those who are no longer aboard.

INT./EXT. KISMET – PLEASURE DISTRICT - ON BLASTBOAT

that belongs to the Saurton Hunters, cruising along a dazzling strip of the Kismet Trade Run.

Inside, the Saurton Hunters are gearing up for war. Pin Pei hefts his blaster in front of the monitor Vader is on. The Saurton shakes the gun to seem impressive. One of the other Hunters GROWLS something in their native tongue.

PIN PEI
We think we are to have one already. Goodbye now.

INT./EXT. STAR DESTROYER *RELENTLESS*

ON THE BRIDGE, Vader lets his hand down. Captain Tagge nods and look to an Imperial Engineer.

CAPTAIN TAGGE
Lightspeed.

OUTSIDE, the *Relentless* blasts into hyperspace, followed shortly by its Dreadnaught escort.

INT./EXT. KISMET – PLEASURE DISTRICT - ON SKIMMER

sailing through the glowing traffic buoys into the pleasure district: four large asteroids spaced to form the cardinal points of an almost invisible sphere.

The asteroids have been hollowed out and filled with dance club clusters, megaplexes, and upscale restaurants. Floating holographic billboards FLASH the logos for Corporate Sector Sponsors: Industrial Automaton, Santhe/ Seinar Technologies, Kuat Drive Yards.

Other skimmers and transit ships zip around the district in a mad rush. The Driver pushes a button, and the cockpit bubble starts to open. Bahk-lun-Sool suddenly braces himself.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
Nuit! What are you doing?!

DRIVER
Relax.
(pointing outside)
We're breathable.

The Borneck looks out and sees that each asteroid is capped with a spiny atmosphere generator.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
Atmosfield factories. Civilization.
(nodding to the Borneck)
Look, you can see the safe zone globe. There. Now lemme drive.

The Driver points again. The generators have formed a barely-visible globe of energy around the pleasure district. Whenever a skimmer or other transport enters or leaves the globe, a portion of it GLIMMERS faintly.

Bahk-lun-Sool sits back, somewhat embarrassed.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
Where we going?

ENDIGO
Wherever there's no weapon check stations or identiscans.

DRIVER
Gotcha. You guys aren't exactly the Empire I've read about, are you?

He steers the skimmer into another floating traffic lane. They head for an impressive, well-lit dining center.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
This here's a good place. Ploovo's.

EXT. KISMET – PLOOVO'S – SKIMMER RAMP

The skimmer pulls up to the metal patron ramp, and Bahk-lun-Sool starts to get out.

DRIVER
Careful.

Bahk-lun-Sool panics for a second as the inertia of his movement causes him to float out of the skimmer into the air above the ramp.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
Breathable, but gravity's a little low.

Endigo grabs the end of Sool's forcepike, stopping the Borneck's ascent. Bahk-lun-Sool nods his gratitude as he settles slowly back down. The others get out onto the ramp more cautiously. Endigo and Hulda help Bre while she tries to keep the hem of her dress from rising.

The skimmer pulls away. Bahk-lun-Sool looks up at the main entrance of Ploovo's, all lit curves and transparisteel, and shakes his head in wonderment. Then he turns to look around at the shimmering, spherical horizon of atmosphere between the pleasure district asteroids. Endigo and Hulda let go of Bre and tap out a sequence on the wrist controls they're both wearing.

ON THEIR BOOTS as a SEALING THUMP is heard.

BACK TO THE RAMP, Bre and Bahk-lun-Sool watch Hulda walk towards Ploovo's with no problem.

HULDA CAULP
Magnoforms. For zero-G work.

Endigo holds the slightly drifting Borneck and Bre as they continue on into the dining center.

BRE
(looking down at his boots)
I want those....

INT. PLOOVO'S

Ploovo's dining center is a grandiose affair of curves, moving light shows, and multi-leveled platforms. A great balcony overlooks two long bars and a wide dance floor. A band plays a catchy but understated melody over AMBIENT SOUNDS OF CONVERSATION. The clientele range from gaudy nobility to alien merchants to stylish freighter jockeys.

PAN ACROSS to a small corner table, oval and cushioned. Hulda and Bahk-lun-Sool sit on freestanding stools across from Endigo and Bre, who are reclining closely together on the wall side. Everyone has a different drink before them, already emptied.

Hulda puts his bare feet on the table, clawed toes wiggling. Bre starts pulling on his magnoforms, sliding out of the table to see how ridiculous she looks in a dress, an ammo belt, and a pair of deepspace boots. She loves it. Hulda hands her the wrist controls.

An insectoid VERPINE WAITER places a bottle of wine before them. His antennae point towards someone up on the balcony across from them: Ploovo-Two-For-One, who raises a wine bauble and smiles. Ploovo is seated with several friends, associates, and hangers-on, their table flanked by armed bodyguards.

Bre glances up at the crime boss and scoots back in next to Endigo.

BRE
Know him?

ENDIGO
Just some goon I figure owns the place.
(grabbing the bottle)
Might as well crack it open.

HULDA CAULP
He doesn't look familiar.

ENDIGO
(pouring)
Maybe we do.

BRE
(after tasting)
Unh, this stuff is horrible.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
(rising quickly)
I will get you the one you prefer. What was it called?

BRE
I'll go, too. Wanna walk around in my boots.

Endigo and Hulda watch them leave. The Borneck leaves his forcepike at the table. Hulda smiles.

HULDA CAULP
You guys are like Mynocks.

ENDIGO
(distracted)
What?

HULDA CAULP
Bre. She draws in you losers faster than--

ENDIGO
Ploovo Two-For-One.

HULDA CAULP
Wine guy?

ENDIGO
Yeah. Recognize him now, from when I used to run with the Combine. He was always trying to get in on some of their action.

The Saurton Hunters enter into the club, blasters holstered but scanning the patrons inside. When Pin Pei enters, they start to break into groups. Endigo and Ploovo-Two-For-One both see them at the same time.

Endigo looks up at Ploovo quickly. Ploovo shrugs his shoulders but motions to his bodyguards. Saurton Hunter One spots Endigo.

HULDA CAULP
Maybe he thinks you'd be a good way in. That would make--

Hulda YELPS as Endigo flips him backwards by his feet. A microsecond later, Endigo rises, IGNITES his lightsaber, and parries the blaster bolt that was meant for Hulda. He deflects it straight back at Saurton Hunter One, who CRASHES into a nearby table. Patrons start SCREAMING. The Saurton Hunters, spread throughout the club, look over at Endigo and open fire. Endigo ducks under the table as multiple EXPLOSIONS tear the wall behind him apart.

Hulda rolls over onto his stomach and blasts one of the Hunters on the balcony stairwell. Another Hunter takes aim on him, but is blasted by Ploovo's bodyguards. Patrons start running for the exits.

Three more Saurton Hunters, including Pin Pei, converge on Bre and Bahk-lun-Sool. Bre blasts the first one, but Bahk-lun-Sool has to dive for cover as Pin Pei opens fire on him. The blaster bolt hits a section of the bar, sending glass shards everywhere. The third Hunter climbs over the body of his fallen comrade, trying to get a shot on Bre.

THUNK! The Saurton is impaled by the forcepike, stuck into the bar and crumpling over. Bre looks over at Endigo, who threw it.

ENDIGO
(across the club)
RUN!

Pin Pei fires at Bre, but hits the impaled Saurton in the chest when she scrambles over him. Bre flees to the exit, Hunters running after her. Pin Pei turns back to Bahk-lun-Sool, but the Borneck rises and guts him with a vibroblade. Bahk-lun-Sool then rips his forcepike out of the impaled Hunter and runs after Bre.

Endigo deactivates his lightsaber and tries to get past the crowd to the exit. He can't. A Saurton targets him but a patron knocks the blaster out of the Hunter's hand.

The Saurton ROARS, charges through the crowd, and tackles Endigo. The Hunter's jaws CRUNCH DOWN on Endigo's upraised arm.

Hulda tries for a shot to save Endigo. Then VORP! a lightsaber spears out from the Saurton's back. The Hunter collapses on top of Endigo, pinning him.

EXT. KISMET – PLOOVO'S – SKIMMER RAMP

Bre is chased out onto the skimmer ramp, followed by four Hunters. She sees a transport ship filling with SCREAMING patrons and decides she doesn't have a chance to get on.

Blaster bolts EXPLODE on the ramp behind her as she runs. Bre hits her wrist controls, and another SEALING THUMP is heard, this time releasing the magnoform's attractor fields.

Bre leaps into the low gravity. She points her blaster behind her and fires without looking, hitting one of her pursuers while also using the force of the blast to sail away from the ramp. One of the Hunters stops and fires up at her, while the other two run towards their Blastboat.

Bre ducks a space buoy, spins around, and fires back at the Hunter still on the ramp. Her blasts EXPLODE all around him as he returns fire. Accelerating with each blast, Bre finally disappears behind a floating holographic billboard. The Hunter lowers his blaster, squinting to see her.

Bahk-lun-Sool strikes him down from behind with the forcepike.

EXT. KISMET – PLEASURE DISTRICT - ON BRE

now clamped to the underside of a skimmer by the magnoforms. She grabs the handle of a cargo plate and starts to pull. It won't budge. Then she looks up and her jaw drops.

PULL BACK. Some distance in front of Bre and the skimmer, but closing fast, is the iridescent edge of the atmosphere globe.

A faraway commuter transport exits the field with a quick GLIMMER. Bre holsters her blaster and yanks on the cargo plate harder.

The field gets closer.

Bre runs up and around the hull of the skimmer to the top. The passengers inside look out at her in surprise. She BANGS on the cockpit bubble, getting the driver's attention.

BRE
Let me in!

DRIVER
Get off!

BRE
PLEASE!

The Saurton Blastboat FALLS INTO VIEW far behind the skimmer and opens fire. Bre ducks instinctively and pulls out her blaster. The Blastboat fires again.

The field gets closer.

Bre activates all the thermal charges on her ammo belt. They start BLINKING. Bre hits her wrist controls again. THUMP!

The skimmer shoots out from under her. She unbuckles her ammo belt and fires her blaster beneath her-- and the ammo belt hangs in the space she leaves behind.

INT. SAURTON BLASTBOAT – COCKPIT

The ammo belt hits the windshield and sticks there.

EXT. KISMET – PLEASURE DISTRICT – ON BRE

who watches the Blastboat leave the atmosphere globe just as it EXPLODES.

Bre uses her blaster to reach a space buoy. She grabs it and holds on, exhausted. More skimmers zip by.

Then one pulls over. Bahk-lun-Sool is inside, pointing Bre out to the driver.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. PLOOVO'S

Ploovo's bodyguards have mopped up the rest of the Saurtons. Corporate Sector Security has arrived, and Ploovo is explaining everything to their SERGEANT, pointing to several security cameras. Endigo and Hulda are seated at the wrecked bar, CSS officers holding blasters on them.

PLOOVO
--it's all recorded. For the sabaac tables, see. And for situations just like this.

Bre and Bahk-lun-Sool enter, hands on their heads, other CSS officers behind them. Endigo starts to get up.

SERGEANT
Let them go. Get the vids and take them to the station.
(aside to Ploovo)
A four-figure voucher, untraceable, my account--

PLOOVO
--by morning. Thank you, Sergeant.

The CSS officers exit. Endigo and Bre hug. Bahk-lun-Sool stands at a respectable distance, but watches them.

PLOOVO
Now. Let's see if I can't get your ship repaired as well.

HULDA CAULP
Wait a minute. Why are you--

PLOOVO
You really don't have time for this. The Empire knows where you are. They are already in transit.

ENDIGO
How do you know that?

PLOOVO
I've been watching the *Atonement* since it got here. I was especially surprised to see Captain Kojian leave it. I mean, after all the trouble I went through to help him escape to the Minos Cluster.

ENDIGO
Kojian gave us up?

PLOOVO
I had him and Skuma followed. They boarded a transport headed for Coruscant, not Minos. You tell me.
(points at Pin Pei)
Do you recognize this scum? No? I do. Local bounty hunters. I could trace who hired them, but why bother with the obvious?

ENDIGO
Okay, Ploovo, so the Empire's coming. Now what do you really want?

EXT. KISMET SPACEDOCK – ON THE STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT*

as the *Lambda*-class Imperial Shuttle drops from the hangar and maneuvers out of the cluster of the spacedock.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – HANGAR BAY

Mede and Destri are saying their farewells to Senator Antilles. The Wullerton refugees are boarding the *Olo Blba*.

TK-299 sits at the controls with no legs. Another Rebel Pilot sits down next to the droid and straps him in.

MEDE
Senator, thank Gav Trevel for me again before you reach Coruscant. For the asylum he provided us here. Tell him we shall not be in the Corporate Sector long enough to become a bother.

SENATOR ANTILLES
I will also talk to General Madine, Admiral. Perhaps we can all come to an understanding.

MEDE
That won't be necessary.

SENATOR ANTILLES
I will talk to General Madine, Admiral. Your reluctance to stay with the Rebel Alliance in your previous capacity is evident. But your ship and your crew is an asset we cannot afford to lose. I will see what I can do about changing the terms of your employment.

The Admiral says nothing, so Antilles bows once and exits.

DESTRI
We could use that credit requisition.

MEDE
Yes, we need it. And we will need another the next time.

Destri's comlink TRILLS. She pulls it out.

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
I'll explain later, Captain, but expect several repair tugs to come in and work on the *Atonement* any moment now.

MEDE
Good work, Hulda. However you did it.

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
Yeah, well, we're not sure about that part ourselves. There's more. The Empire is on their way here. Seems like Kojian decided to reenlist.

MEDE
Do we know this for sure?

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
The lead seems solid. Get what repairs you can and then move out.

DESTRI
If it is true, we'll beam you coordinates to a rendezvous point as soon as we detect Imperial starships. Because I'm assuming that you can't return to the *Atonement* right now.

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
Nothing's ever that easy, Captain.

EXT. KISMET SPACEDOCK – ON THE STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT*

as repair tugs from many different outfits converge on the Star Destroyer just as the *Olo Blba* leaves.

INT. PLOOVO'S – PRIVATE OFFICE

Ploovo's office is dingy and sparse compared to the dining center outside. Monitors display several areas of the club. Ploovo, Endigo, Hulda, Bre, and Bahk-lun-Sool are all seated at a messy glass sabaac table. A large vidscreen fills the wall behind Ploovo-Two-For-One.

PLOOVO
Not long ago, I was betrayed by the Combine and the Empire. You don't need to know the details. Let's just say helping you is the best way of hurting the "New Order" that I can find.

ENDIGO
Live up to the name, Ploovo.

PLOOVO
Yes, let's come to the second part. There is a rival of mine, name of Odumin.

ENDIGO
I don't do that anymore.

Bre looks over at Endigo.

PLOOVO
I'm not talking about that. Removing Odumin would create a vacuum I don't need. But Odumin has recently scored a deal with Santhe/Seinar Technologies, a starship developer I'm sure you're familiar with.

BRE
(whispering to Bahk-lun-Sool)
S/ST makes TIE fighters--

PLOOVO
That's their greatest claim to fame, of course, but they also manufacture several others. That I'm sure the Rebellion would not mind owning.

ENDIGO
How many ships are we talking about?

PLOOVO
How many can you steal?

Ploovo presses a button on his desk and the vidscreen behind comes to life: the asteroids of the Kismet Trade Run. Odumin's section FLARES BRIGHTLY. One asteroid in particular becomes outlined in a circular BLINKING VECTOR.

PLOOVO (CONT'D)
(gesturing)
Odumin is keeping the ships here, hidden in a scrap yard until his people can modify their signatures. Take what you want, blow up the rest.

HULDA CAULP
(to Endigo)
Do you think Mede will go for this?

ENDIGO
We won't tell him. Way I figure, we refuse and the *Atonement*'s repair funding evaporates.

PLOOVO
(after a small nod)
I also don't need Odumin's private fleet to get any larger than it already is, Mr. Endigo.

Endigo looks at everyone. They are expecting him to answer.

ENDIGO
All right. Hulda, get Skatuhl down here, and tell her to bring some of our old crew. Drebbles, Pafe, Cull--

HULDA CAULP
--Ube Tonnit, the Jix brothers...
(pulling out his datapad)
... half of them are on shore leave anyway. We'll be ready soon.

BRE
Two-Tau. Oh, and Efdee.

ENDIGO
(to Ploovo)
--and you bring up whatever schematics you have on that scrap yard.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS

ENTER WITH DESTRI into Mede's quarters. The Admiral is at his desk, his back to the Captain.

DESTRI
The repairs are underway and going well, sir. Whatever Hulda and--

MEDE
That’s not why I called for you, Captain.

Destri looks over and sees the wet bar open, and an empty bottle of spirits. There is a glass on the Admiral’s desk.

MEDE (CONT’D)
‘Tet.’

DESTRI
Yes?

MEDE
No, I mean, that’s the first time I’ve said it aloud. To you. One time I read it off the list of Townowi rebels the Emperor was after. To my former captain.

DESTRI
I am somewhat unprepared for this, Admiral. Personally, I feel that everything concerning the convoy ambush is best left unsaid between us. That was nearly a year ago.

Mede turns around. His eyes are red, from the drink, but he doesn’t look at her. He motions for her to sit. She does.

MEDE
Veeja. Dead a year already. What are we doing out here, Tet Destri?

DESTRI
Currently, Admiral, I am waiting for the point.

The Admiral finally looks up.

MEDE
I hoped that mentioning Townowi would trigger something like this. Good. I attempted something similar with Mr. Sool, but got nowhere.

DESTRI
You've been attempting this on nearly everyone today. Is this how officers deal with their own self-loathing in the Empire? How many times did you conceal the need for confession to Veeja while you baited him?
(beat)
Permission to return to the bridge.

MEDE
Denied. Let me tell you a few more horrible things about Admiral Titus Mede.

DESTRI
(rising)
Denied. Drink something stronger.

MEDE
You'll be the fourth captain under my command that I have killed.

DESTRI
What?

MEDE
You fell for it again, Tet Destri. Yet so strong just a few seconds ago....

Destri turns to exit. Mede coughs and presses a button. Destri finds that the blast door controls won't respond.

MEDE (CONT'D)
The first was Captain Nor Terryl. Destri, I made Admiral killing Captain Terryl. I was General Mede then.

DESTRI
I don't care.

MEDE
This was early into the New Order. I led a small fleet into an asteroid field somewhat like this one. Captain Terryl was in command of a Dreadnaught.

Mede sits back, remembering. He takes his eyes off Destri.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Mine was the only destroyer. We were hunting one of the first of the rebel cells.

Destri leans back against the door and closes her eyes.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Yes, no choice really but to listen. Captain Terryl was leading us into a trap. Turned out he was a rebel himself. He and his crew had defected without my knowing some time before. Useless to point out that irony now, I feel, but hark, he does it anyway. The plan was to ambush our fleet in the asteroid field. It nearly worked. Terryl was a very, very good officer. He and the rebel starships that appeared so suddenly had the rest of my Dreadnaughts ionized before I knew it. Eventually the battle came near to the end... I had destroyed all the other rebel starships, Terryl had destroyed the other Dreadnaughts, and both my vessel and his had sustained heavy damage. So I ran, Destri. A Star Destroyer running from a Dreadnaught. An odd image, no? Terryl thought so. I knew he would. I knew he would also give chase rather than let me escape. I let him close until I had the asteroid I wanted on my starboard side. I could have entered hyperspace, Destri. Just to let the rest of it sink in. For me or for you, I can't say. But I <u>did</u> have that way out at my disposal, for the one of us that is wondering. But instead I tractor beamed the asteroid on my starboard and set the sublights to maximum. We swung around the asteroid and behind the Dreadnaught before <u>they</u> knew it. And then I opened fire with all my forward cannons. And then I did it again.

Mede looks up again. He straightens his uniform.

MEDE (CONT'D)
And though I had lost my whole fleet, the rebels were traced to their hideout and exterminated. And that is how I made Admiral, Tet Destri.

Mede presses the button to release the blast door controls. Destri opens her eyes and then narrows them.

DESTRI
You want me to hold you accountable for that?

MEDE
Not at all. Terryl deserved it. I did want to tell you about the Tapani Expanse, but I'm tired now. Perhaps another time.

Destri can barely contain her frustration. She exits. Mede waits, and then presses another button.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – CORRIDOR

Destri strides through a corridor, making for a turbolift elevator. A SHRILL NOISE comes over the corridor's loudspeakers. Mede's voice ECHOES throughout the whole ship.

MEDE (CONT'D)
Wait. You wanted the point, Captain. I forgot it somewhere along the way. But it was more of a theme than a point, something to do with my relief that you made it out alive of the Minos Cluster...as unlikely as that may sound... in light of our recent conversation.

Destri shakes her head and enters an elevator.

EXT. SPACE – CORPORATE SECTOR AUTHORITY

The ISD *Relentless* and its Dreadnaught escort drop out of hyperspace. They head for the Kismet Trade Run.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. KISMET – NEAR ODUMIN'S ASTEROID BASES

FOLLOWING SEVERAL TIS ZETA 19 PATROL FIGHTERS as they fly along the perimeter of a cluster of the Kismet Trade Run. One of the Zetas gets too close to the cluster's atmosphere globe and its wing leaves a GLIMMERING STREAK across the surface. Suddenly, on one of the asteroids, something EXPLODES. The Zetas immediately change formation and zoom to that asteroid.

PAN QUICKLY to a few commuter transports, waiting some distance nearby.

ENDIGO (V.O.)
Clockwork. Cull, you'd better get out of there quickly. You've got Zeta 19's coming for you. Our side's going in.

HULDA CAULP (V.O.)
Jamming frequencies are check. But they are also cheap. Let's move.

The commuter transports hit the edge of the asteroid cluster's atmosphere globe one by one, brief AFTERGLOWS the only thing to mark the intruders, which head for a different asteroid altogether.

EXT. KISMET SPACEDOCK – ON THE STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT*

as KLAXON ALARMS SOUND OFF. SPIN TO SEE the ISD *Relentless* heading into the asteroid canyon, freighter droids and repair tugs scrambling out of its way.

The Star Destroyer opens fire on the *Atonement*. The topmost array of magno-clamps EXPLODE and break apart.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE

Destri stands at the tactical grid with the Technician. A BRIDGE OFFICER is watching out of the bridge's viewports.

DESTRI
Looks like Vader paid someone off.

TECHNICIAN
To knock out our sensors?

DESTRI
We can't fight here. Move her out.

BRIDGE OFFICER
We still have work tugs in front of us.

DESTRI
Then move her <u>up</u>.

EXT. KISMET SPACEDOCK – ON THE STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT*

as it rises through the lattice-work of the spacedock, breaking the structure apart into a floating pile of wreckage. The repair tugs in front of the *Atonement* hit their thrusters and shoot backwards, away from the scattering debris.

The *Relentless* arcs upwards and fires again, but it can't get a clean shot through the expanding wave of fragments and broken support beams.

RISE WITH THE *ATONEMENT* out of the asteroid canyon. She turns to meet two Dreadnaughts moving into firing range.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE – ON DESTRI

still staring at the tactical grid to fight, an old habit. She sees the Dreadnaughts on her scope.

DESTRI
Ion cannons on the leader. Hope that she buckles and blocks her friend. Then get me Endigo.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *RELENTLESS* – BRIDGE

Vader and Captain Tagge watch as the *Atonement* attempts to escape. The *Relentless* rises out of the canyon just as Dreadnaught One is ionized and disabled. Dreadnaught Two banks away from it and sets another course, heading into a space lane, several skimmers EXPLODING on its hull.

Vader looks away from the battle, into another region of the Kismet Trade Run. He stares for a second, and then begins to exit.

VADER
I’ve found Endigo.

CAPTAIN TAGGE
(distracted)
Are you sure, milord?

VADER
(not stopping)
Admiral Mede is your concern, Captain Tagge. I’m taking one of the Shuttles.

EXT. ODUMIN SCRAP YARD

Endigo and his crew are busy with several racks of TIE fighters, Skipray Blastboats, and other light freighters, either loading up or setting charges on the starships they don’t have the manpower to take.

All around them is an endless junkyard, high mountains of metal scrap, towering cranes still loaded with girders or dead energy cells, broken down speeders, and laser-scorched ship hull segments.

The valley of the Santhe/Seinar ships is relatively clear, save for the occasional power couplings and broken pipes jutting out of the ground.

Two-Tau is standing guard on a pile of barrels and freighter droid husks. Efdee is floating nearby, sensor array exposed. Bre carefully climbs up the pile and waves at Two-Tau.

BRE
Come on. Found one where you won’t be too big.

The Jix Brothers jump into a couple of starfighters and give Skatuhl the thumbs up. The Barabel signals for them to launch. Then she runs over to board a Blastboat that is already rising, Bahk-lun-Sool at the controls.

PAFE, a young human boy, gets into a different Blastboat.

PAFE
I need a co-pilot here!

Drebbles runs over as Pafe warms the Blastboat up.

Endigo is setting charges on a Ghtroc Medium Freighter. Hulda comes out from behind a landing gear and frowns. He rubs his hand along the underbelly of the Ghtroc.

HULDA CAULP
We don’t need to do this one, do we?

ENDIGO
What?

HULDA CAULP
I mean, she’s awful clean, Shen.

ENDIGO
Not you.
(into his transceiver)
Say again?

Bre and Two-Tau rush over. Efdee is wobbling along behind. Ube Tonnit takes off in another Blastboat.

BRE
We’re taking that *Lambda* over there.

ENDIGO
We’ll be there in a second, Destri.
(to Bre)
The *Atonement* is under attack by another Star Destroyer and a couple of Dreadnaughts. Go and help and tell the others already enroute.

BRE
Let’s go then. Forget Ploovo.

ENDIGO
Already forgotten.
(to Hulda)
Start taking these charges off.

BRE
Huh?! We don’t have--

ENDIGO
Just this Ghtroc Freighter here, then we’ll be there with you. Trust me.

Bre frowns, but Two-Tau starts to nudge her towards the Imperial Shuttle. She doesn’t get a chance to argue.

HULDA CAULP
(looking at the rear engines)
Not as clean as I thought. I’ll go find another energy cell. Looks like we’re leaking here.

Efdee WHISTLES.

ENDIGO
That says hurry. Odumin’s security must have tagged us.

INT. IMPERIAL SHUTTLE – ON BRE

as she hits a communication console. Outside the cockpit, the Shuttle is passing over the pleasure district, towards the Kismet Spacedock and the tiny explosions above it.

BRE
I heard that! Get going.

ENDIGO (V.O.)
We're almost done, sweetie.

EXT. ODUMIN SCRAP YARD – ON HULDA

behind a mound of power cells, digging around for a good one. He hears Efdee WHISTLE again and digs faster.

BEHIND HULDA, approaching him. WE HEAR VADER'S BREATHING just as he does. A lightsaber ignites OFF-SCREEN.

PULL BACK to see Hulda spin around, arms held up as Vader strikes him down.

EXT. KISMET – ABOVE PLEASURE DISTRICT

The *Atonement* is lifting and turning around to get a shot on the *Relentless* close behind. The Dreadnaughts are following their Star Destroyer, the one that was ionized now functional but far behind.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE

Mede enters and heads for the viewports. He looks around for Destri, and the Bridge Officer points back to the tactical grid, where she and Technician watch the battle.

DESTRI
We're clear of the urban districts now. Fire on that destroyer when you can.

TECHNICIAN
We took too long, Destri. The *Relentless* wasn't being as polite. Shields are almost--

DESTRI
Our shields are <u>always</u> almost. Get me a clear shot.

MEDE
Where are the others?

DESTRI
I have the bridge, Admiral.

MEDE
Destri!

DESTRI
They’re coming in! And they’re bringing starships. I have the heavier fighters attacking Dreadnaught one now.

BRIDGE OFFICER
Dreadnaught two is moving in front of the *Relentless.*

TECHNICIAN
(smiling)
Got that clear shot you wanted.

INT./EXT. SKATUHL’S BLASTBOAT – ON BAHK-LUN-SOOL

as he targets Dreadnaught One with his forward cannons.

BAHK-LUN-SOOL
I have them.

SKATUHL
Setchpo!

The Borneck looks over, confused.

PAFE (V.O.)
She said ‘proton torpedoes’, Sool.

OUTSIDE, Skatuhl’s Blastboat dips toward the Dreadnaught, RUPTURES its hull with the proton torpedoes, and rises to clear the EXPLOSION.

INT. IMPERIAL SHUTTLE – ON BRE

seeing the rest of Endigo’s team ripping Dreadnaught One to shreds. Two-Tau points to the *Relentless* outside.

BRE
We've got fighters coming out of the bad Star Destroyer.

MEDE (V.O.)
Everyone head back to the *Atonement*. We've got a hyperlane ready.

PAFE (V.O.)
Roger that, sir. D One is dust.

BRE
Endigo's not here yet, Admiral.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE

Destri looks up from the tactical grid to Mede.

MEDE
Why not, Officer Bre?

BRE (V.O.)
Hulda and Shen are being stupid.

MEDE
Where are they being stupid, Officer Bre?

DESTRI
(looking back at the grid)
She's going to show us.

BRE (V.O.)
Follow my blip.

MEDE
We stay as long as we can.

DESTRI
Yessir. We can hold them off.

MEDE
That's Captain Tagge out there, Destri. He is good and we are hurt. Look at our damage readout and then think about it.

DESTRI
(to Technician)
Be prepared to beam our hyperlane coordinates to Bre any moment.

EXT. ODUMIN SCRAP YARD – NEAR GHTROC FREIGHTER

The freighter's sublights are WHINING. Endigo comes out and holds his hand to his transceiver.

ENDIGO
Found an energy cell already—

Then he sees Hulda come from behind a pile of wreckage. Floating dead in front of Darth Vader, who has a hand up.

Endigo charges.

Hulda is tossed in front of him but he jumps and ignites his lightsaber, landing to lock in combat as Vader raises his own. Their lightsabers CRACK with the impact. Endigo pushes Vader off and charges again.

CRACK.

EXT. KISMET – NEAR ODUMIN'S ASTEROID BASES

FOLLOWING BRE'S SHUTTLE as she heads for the scrap yard asteroid. She's not even near the atmosphere globe before Odumin's Zetas come into her sight, firing.

BRE (V.O.)
Shen! Answer me!

PULL BACK to see the Zetas split formation as the main wing of the Imperial Shuttle RIPS OFF and hurtles into space.

EXT. ODUMIN SCRAP YARD – NEAR GHTROC FREIGHTER

Endigo and Vader are standing far away from each other. Shen is breathing hard. Vader lowers his sword. Endigo CLICKS off his transceiver ear and raises his lightsaber.

Efdee WHISTLES again, as several Odumin Security Troopers arrive on the scene. They surround Endigo and Vader, standing on piles of rubble, on top of speeders, and in the dusty valleys between. They level their blasters.

TROOPER ONE
Don’t move!

Vader looks over to a squad of troopers standing between two mounds of broken metal. The mounds shudder and then crash together, crushing them all. Endigo looks over at some others and they fly off of their speeder.

Trooper One fires at Endigo, who deflects the shot towards Vader, who deflects it back at Trooper One, catching him in the chest. The other troopers run away.

INT. BRE’S SHUTTLE

The interior of the Shuttle cockpit is FLASHING with alert signals. Two-Tau stands up and hits his head.

TWO-TAU
Bokawa dis beddu!

BRE
Fine. Wait, though.

Two-Tau raises his handcannons.

BRE (CONT’D)
Wait.

The Shuttle enters the atmosphere globe with a BRIGHT GLOW. Bre pulls hard on a handle and flips a row of switches.

BRE (CONT’D)
Go.

EXT. ABOVE ODUMIN’S SCRAPYARD ASTEROID – ON SHUTTLE

as its side wings fold up, pitching the Shuttle backwards as it plummets.

Blasterfire ERUPTS out of the Shuttle's viewports, great shards of transparisteel glass breaking out into the low-gravity field.

UNDER THE SHUTTLE as it EXPLODES, a frozen fireball.

Two figures drop from the sky: Two-Tau cradling Bre in his arms.

EXT. ODUMIN SCRAP YARD

Two-Tau's feet SLAM to the ground, sending up a CLOUD OF DUST. He rises from a crouching position, knee-servos CRUNCHING. Bre pats the droid on the arm frantically.

BRE
(pointing)
Two-Tau! Don't kill!

The rest of the Odumin Security Troopers are running their way. Bre closes her eyes as Two-Tau opens fire with her in his arms. The blasts EXPLODE around the feet of the troopers, scattering them and raising up a cloud of dust. Two-Tau then runs over to hide under the metal skeleton of a star galleon chassis. They watch until they are sure the troopers are all gone.

Bre starts to step out of the chassis. Efdee suddenly appears in front of her face, WHISTLING.

EXT. KISMET SPACE BATTLE

The *Atonement* has the *Relentless* in front of it and Dreadnaught Two to its side. All three vessels are heavily damaged. TIE fighters are zipping across the *Atonement* blasting away with little effect.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – BRIDGE

Destri is searching the blips on the grid.

DESTRI
Bre's ship is gone.

TECHNICIAN
She’s not carrying a comlink, either.

MEDE
Destri, it’s time to go.

Destri bites her lip. She looks outside the viewports. Then she nods, turning to the Technician.

DESTRI
Turn as hard as you can away from the *Relentless.*

EXT. KISMET SPACE BATTLE

The *Atonement* suffers more damage as it arcs its nose away from the other destroyer. The Dreadnaught strikes a direct hit into its rear engines, but the *Atonement* accelerates anyway. The *Relentless* falls in behind her, blocking the Dreadnaught, which has to cease fire.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT*

DESTRI
The Dreadnaught’s firing arc is blocked.

MEDE
We’re clear to jump.

TECHNICIAN
Wait.

DESTRI
We’re getting a message from Efdee. Bre and Endigo are trapped.

MEDE
Where?

DESTRI
And Vader is there.

TECHNICIAN
It’s too far away, Admiral.

DESTRI
Bre is telling us to run.

She looks over to Mede, afraid to make the call.

MEDE
Beam the hyperspace coordinates to Efdee, Captain, then get us out of here.

EXT. KISMET SPACE BATTLE

The *Atonement* blasts into hyperspace.

EXT. ODUMIN SCRAP YARD – NEAR GHTROC FREIGHTER

Vader is casually parrying the wild swings of Endigo's lightsaber. Vader then locks their swords together.

VADER
Where is all the banter this time, Shen?

Vader pushes Endigo away and charges. Endigo blocks an overhead chop. CRACK.

VADER (CONT'D)
This is pointless. You know that.

Endigo swings low, is parried, and is battered back again. From behind a ruined speeder, Bre and Two-Tau emerge.

Bre sees Vader, Endigo, and Hulda's body, and ducks back behind the speeder. She holds a hand up to her mouth to stifle a scream. She starts to cry. Two-Tau's cannons try to track Vader, but Endigo keeps getting in the way. Two-Tau can't get a clear shot.

VADER (CONT'D)
(locking Endigo again)
You know you cannot destroy me.

Endigo breaks the lock and strikes across. CRACK.

ENDIGO
I can’t, huh?

CRACK.

ENDIGO (CONT’D)
But that’s the way to enlightenment, right?

CRACK.

ENDIGO (CONT’D)
That’s what you taught me.

CRACK.

ENDIGO (CONT’D)
Kill your feelings.

CRACK.

ENDIGO (CONT’D)
Kill your father.

CRACK.

ENDIGO (CONT’D)
Kill your teacher.

CRACK.

ENDIGO (CONT’D)
I only got one step to go.

Bre’s eyes widen. She slowly starts to shake her head.

Vader pushes Endigo away for the last time. Endigo drops to the ground. Two-Tau FIRES. Vader turns to deflect the shots, but the droid isn’t shooting at him. Vader hears a CREAKING SOUND OF METAL from above. He looks up to see the empty maw of a blasted crane, and all the rain of metal wreckage falling from it. He holds up a hand just before it all CRASHES down on top of him and he is buried completely.

Endigo looks over at Bre. She can only stare at him, betrayed. Endigo gets up. Bre goes over to Hulda's body and tries to lift it. Two-Tau goes to help. Endigo comes over.

BRE
We'll do it. Trust me.

EXT. KISMET – NEAR ODUMIN'S ASTEROID BASES – ON THE GHTROC FREIGHTER

which outruns the Zetas with ease and enters hyperspace.

INT. GHTROC FREIGHTER – COCKPIT - HYPERSPACE

Endigo comes in and sits down in the co-pilot's seat. Bre is trying not to cry, holding the steering column.

ENDIGO
Bre.

BRE
Never.

ENDIGO
You don't understand what--

BRE
(into a console)
*Atonement*, this is Officer Bre.

MEDE (V.O.)
We read your signature. Good work, Chori. Hulda and Endigo with you?

BRE
(beat)
Roger that, sir.

ENDIGO
I'll tell you how it happened, Bre.

BRE
You'll enlighten me?

ENDIGO
Bre, please.

BRE
(turning to him finally)
Did you do it? Did you kill him?

ENDIGO
Yes... and all my brothers, too.

Bre moves to leave the cockpit. Endigo doesn't stop her.

EXT. SPACE – UNKNOWN SECTOR – ON *ATONEMENT*

drifting silently through a nebula.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS

Destri enters. Mede is seated at his desk again, its double-sided monitor up but not on.

MEDE
Letting Kojian go was a... a mistake, Captain. And now Hulda is--

DESTRI
Admiral. We flew a Star Destroyer right into the Corporate Sector, and an infamous one at that. Anyone could have reported our location. That place runs on deals and exchanges and all the money in between. Gav Trevel is just a sympathetic businessman among a thousand practical ones. We heard that Kojian went to Coruscant, but did he really? We only have Ploovo Two-For-One's word to go on that he did, and how much do you think that's worth? Maybe it was a lucky guess that the Empire would come, or a tip from another source. Hell, maybe he gave us up. In the end, Ploovo still uses us to cut a rival off from, what? Another deal.

Destri, exhausted, finally takes a seat.

DESTRI (CONT'D)
You asked me earlier what we were doing here. We're running, Admiral. And we'll run again the next time. Running away from the Empire is how I met you, Mede.

MEDE
And this is reason enough for you to stay?

DESTRI
Right now, yes, because every now and then we stop running. Long enough to remind the Empire why they should be chasing us across the galaxy in the first place.

Mede activates the monitor. Antilles appears onscreen.

SENATOR ANTILLES
Good to hear from you, Admiral.

MEDE
Senator. I was just wondering if you had spoken to Madine yet. We must say goodbye to someone... but the *Atonement* will be fit for duty after that.

INT. STAR DESTROYER *ATONEMENT* – HANGAR BAY

FOLLOWING ENDIGO AND SKATUHL as they slide Hulda's repulsor casket between two lines of the *Atonement*'s officers, pilots, technicians, troopers, and maintenance personnel.

PULL BACK to see a host of Hulda's crewmates, veterans of *The Long Haul*, marching behind Endigo and the Barabel. The casket, darkened transparisteel, Hulda a silhouette inside, floats above the floor of the hangar bay a meter high.

The Ghtroc Freighter is waiting at the end of the lines. Mede, Destri, Technician, Two-Tau, and Bre wait there. Bahk-lun-Sool is among the troopers, unsure of his place.

Pafe and Ube Tonnit stand on either side of the freighter's loading ramp. Before Hulda gets to them, Admiral Mede steps forward and places his hand gently on the repulsor casket. He nervously looks up at Endigo, who remains impassive.

MEDE
If I had signed off on the requisition form, Mr. Endigo, this might--

ENDIGO
Or if we hadn't agreed to help out with Sanctuary-- This... this is pointless. There are too many causes to count, and no one if/then is going to satisfy either of us, Mede. Let's both settle on if there were no Empire at all.

MEDE
I don't know where we'll be when all is done. I'll have Antilles contact you--

ENDIGO
Don't. Hulda and I wanted to do one more job for the Rebellion and we did it. Now I'm taking him home. I won't be returning to the *Atonement*.

Pafe, Cull, and Skatuhl push Hulda into the freighter.

MEDE
It was a pleasure to know you, Mr. Endigo.

Endigo looks over to Bre. She has already left.

ENDIGO
You never really did, Admiral. I made sure my profile failed to mention several things.

Endigo exits. After a few moments, the Ghtroc Freighter warms up, rises, and then descends out of the bay.

IRIS OUT.

END OF SEASON ONE